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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3337

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

DIRONDCP WASHDC

JOINT STAFF WASHDC

NSC WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCSO MIAMI FL

COMSOCSOUTH ROOSEVELT ROADS PR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BOGOTA 000025

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/30/2012

TAGS: PGOV, PTER, ASEC, SNAR, PHUM, KJUS, SOCI, PREL, CO CONFIDENTIAL

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CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR ANNE W. PATTERSON FOR REASONS: 1.5(B) AND (D)

1 (C) SUMMARY: AS A RESULT OF DEVASTATING ATTACKS AGAINST THE CANO LIMON PIPELINE THAT COST COLOMBIA \$500 MILLION IN LOST OIL REVENUES IN 2002 (1/2 PERCENT OF GDP), THE GOC, WITH EMBASSY SUPPORT, HAS FOCUSED ITS RESOURCES ON PROTECTING THE PIPELINE AND REESTABLISHING THE STATE'S PRESENCE IN ARAUCA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON DATE/CASE ID: 02 JUL 2004 200303455

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DEPARTMENT. THE LACK OF A STATE PRESENCE HAS BEEN HISTORICALLY EXPLOITED BY THE ELN, AND, INCREASINGLY IN RECENT YEARS, THE FARC. IN ADDITION TO ATTACKING THE CANO LIMON PIPELINE, THESE GROUPS HAVE COMMITTED WIDESPREAD HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND HAVE ALSO INFILTRATED LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL POLITICS, THUS SIPHONING OFF OIL ROYALTIES DESTINED TO MUNICIPALITIES THEY CONTROL. POST IS WORKING WITH THE GOC IN SEVERAL PROGRAMS TO PROTECT COLOMBIA'S VITAL INFRASTRUCTURE, REESTABLISH STATE PRESENCE, CURB DEPREDATIONS BY TERRORIST GROUPS, AND PROVIDE SECURITY TO ARAUCA'S PEOPLE. THESE INCLUDE PROVIDING TRAINING TO THE POLICE AND THE MILITARY, CIVILIAN OUTREACH PROGRAMS, INTELLIGENCE SHARING, AND COOPERATION ON ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WITH LOCAL NGO'S AND OIL COMPANIES IN THE REGION. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE JUST STARTING, THEY ALREADY APPEAR TO BE HAVING A GOOD EFFECT. THE COMBINED RESULT OF THESE EFFORTS HAS BEEN A DROP FROM 170 PIPELINE ATTACKS IN 2001 TO 41 IN 2002, ALLOWING THE PIPELINE TO RUN ALMOST 11 MONTHS THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

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\_\_\_\_\_\_ WHY ARAUCA?

2. (C) ARAUCA SHARES ITS NORTHERN AND EASTERN BORDER WITH VENEZUELA, AND IS ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF THE COUNTRY BY COLOMBIA'S MASSIVE EASTERN MOUNTAIN RANGE. ARAUCA HAS LONG SUFFERED FROM A WEAK STATE PRESENCE AND VERY LITTLE ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, MAKING IT VULNERABLE TO ENCROACHMENT BY THE ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY INTERLOCUTORS IN ARAUCA, OVER THE LAST TEN TO FIFTEEN YEARS. THE ELN INFILTRATED VIRTUALLY EVERY POLITICAL INSTITUTION IN THE DEPARTMENT, FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE DOWN TO THE LOCAL OFFICES OF THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL. USING POLITICAL CONTROL AND ARMED COERCION, THE ELN NOW HAS CONSIDERABLE CONTROL OVER SPENDING OF OIL REVENUES PAID TO THE DEPARTMENT, ASSIGNMENT OF BUREAUCRATIC GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS, AND GRANTING OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS. ARAUCA HAS THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA INVESTMENT RATE IN THE COUNTRY, NEARLY US\$600 PER CAPITA, BUT HAS ALMOST NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT. THE GOC HAS RESPONDED BY INCREASING AUDITING OF MUNICIPAL AND DEPARTMENT SPENDING OF OIL ROYALTIES, AND HAS ALSO INCLUDED A REVISION OF THE ROYALTY-SHARING SYSTEM IN THE UPCOMING REFERENDUM TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY IN SPENDING OIL ROYALTIES.

3. (U) OIL WAS DISCOVERED IN CANO LIMON, ARAUCA DEPARTMENT, IN 1983. DRILLING BEGAN IN 1985, AFTER THE CONSTRUCTION OF

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DRILLING FACILITIES AND THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS PIPELINE, WHICH IS OVER 770 KILOMETERS LONG. THIS DISCOVERY WAS CRUCIAL FOR THE COUNTRY. COLOMBIA RETURNED TO ITS STATUS AS A PETROLEUM EXPORTER, AFTER TEN YEARS OF IMPORTING. OIL ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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BECAME ONE OF COLOMBIA'S CHIEF EXPORT REVENUE EARNERS,
SURPASSING COFFEE. COLOMBIA NOW RECEIVES NEARLY 85 PERCENT
OF THE VALUE OF THE OIL IN TAXES, AND IN REGIONAL AND
NATIONAL PRODUCTION ROYALTIES. THE CANO LIMON FIELD HAS
GENERATED CONSIDERABLE ROYALTIES FOR THE GOC, THE DEPARTMENT
OF ARAUCA, THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ARAUCA, ARAUQUITA, SARAVENA
AND OTHER MUNICIPALITIES TOUCHED BY THE PIPELINE. BETWEEN
1986 AND 2002, THE CANO LIMON FIELD HAS GENERATED AN
ESTIMATED US\$1.2 BILLION IN REGIONAL ROYALTIES, AND ANOTHER
US\$800 MILLION IN NATIONAL ROYALTIES.

4. (SBU) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ESTIMATES THAT AS MUCH AS 30 PERCENT OF ARAUCA'S OIL REVENUES ARE SIPHONED OFF TO THE ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS THROUGH CORRUPTION. THE ELN BEGAN ATTACKING THE PIPELINE IN 1986, TO DEMONSTRATE ITS ABILITY TO DISRUPT OIL PRODUCTION, FRIGHTEN THE LOCAL POPULATION, AND SUSTAIN ITS RHETORIC IN OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN EXPLOITATION OF COLOMBIAN RESOURCES. NOTABLY, FROM 1986 TO 1997, ELN ATTACKS AGAINST THE PIPELINE NEVER EXCEEDED 64 PER YEAR, REFLECTING THE ELN'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN A MINIMUM FLOW OF OIL, AND THUS OIL REVENUE, TO THE ELN. IN 1996, THE GOC STEPPED UP ITS MILITARY CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS. TO MEET INCREASING FINANCIAL NEEDS

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
DIRONDCP WASHDC
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
NSC WASHDC
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CREATED BY THE GOC'S MILITARY CAMPAIGN, THE FARC DEMANDED THAT THE ELN SHARE ITS OIL REVENUES. THE ELN REFUSED TO DO SO, SO IN MID-1997 THE FARC INCREASED ITS PRESSURE BY LAUNCHING ITS OWN ATTACKS AGAINST THE PIPELINE. THE FARC MOVED INTO ARAUCA IN FORCE IN FEBRUARY 2001. COMBINED FARC AND ELN ATTACKS AGAINST THE PIPELINE IN 2001 TOTALED 170. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE FIFTEEN-YEAR HISTORY OF THE PIPELINE, PRODUCTION WAS SUSPENDED FOR NEARLY SIX MONTHS IN 2001. INTERRUPTIONS IN OIL PRODUCTION WOUND UP COSTING THE GOC NEARLY HALF A PERCENTAGE POINT OF GDP.

5. (U) AT THE SAME TIME, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES CONTINUE TO PLAGUE THE DEPARTMENT. TO GIVE ONE EXAMPLE, ON APRIL 9, THE FARC AND ELN DECLARED EMPLOYEES OF U.S. OIL PRODUCER OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM (OXY) "MILITARY TARGETS." ON DECEMBER 22, A BUS CARRYING 30 OXY EMPLOYEES WAS ATTACKED, LEAVING TWO DEAD, 12 INJURED AND THREE MISSING. IN RESPONSE TO THESE PROBLEMS, THE GOC HAS MADE INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE PRESENCE IN ARAUCA A PRIORITY. THE USG IS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS GOAL THROUGH SEVERAL PROGRAMS.

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8. (SBU) THE CARABINERO SQUADRONS WILL OPERATE IN CONFLICTIVE AREAS. WHILE A SQUADRON IS PACIFYING AN AREA, A CONFIDENTIAL

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HARDENED POLICE STATION WILL BE CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE
SUPERVISION OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS. ONCE THE
STATION IS BUILT, A 50-MAN PERMANENT CNP DETACHMENT WILL BE
INSTALLED THERE. THESE DETACHMENTS WILL ALSO RECEIVE
INL-FUNDED EQUIPMENT. THE CARABINERO SQUADRON WILL HAND OVER
SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PERMANENT DETACHMENT AND
THEN DEPLOY TO ANOTHER CONFLICTIVE ZONE. TWENTY HARDENED
STATIONS ARE TO BE BUILT ANNUALLY. THE FIRST IS EXPECTED TO
BE LOCATED IN SARAVENA, ARAUCA DEPARTMENT.

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MILITARY TRAINING

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3339

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

DIRONDCP WASHDC

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SECDEF WASHDC

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SUBJECT: EARLY EFFORTS IN ARAUCA PAYING OFF

11. (U) IN FEBRUARY, A SOUTHCOM-SPONSORED SEMINAR WILL BE HELD IN THE CITY OF BUCARAMANGA, SANTANDER DEPARTMENT. THE SEMINAR WILL FOCUS ON CIVIL-MILITARY OPERATIONS, COORDINATION WITH NGOS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DISPLACED PERSONS ISSUES, AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION. CONDUCTED BY U.S. ARMY CIVIL AFFAIRS COMMAND RESERVISTS ON TEMPORARY DUTY TO COLOMBIA, THE FEBRUARY SEMINAR WILL TARGET THE ARAUCA-BASED 18TH BRIGADE. THIS WILL BE THE SECOND IN A PLANNED SERIES OF

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SEVEN SUCH SEMINARS, WHICH SHOULD BEGIN IN JANUARY 2003 AND

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RUN THROUGH SEPTEMBER ACROSS COLOMBIA.

"AID STRUCTURE" PROGRAM

12. (U) THE GOC HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED A COOPERATIVE EFFORT IN ARAUCA DRAWING ON THE RESOURCES OF THE COLAR AND SEVERAL GOC LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY, THE JUDICIAL POLICE AND THE TECHNICAL INVESTIGATIVE UNITS OF THE CNP. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE "ESTRUCTURA DE APOYO" ("AID STRUCTURE") PROGRAM WORK AND SLEEP ON THE COLAR 18TH BRIGADE'S BASE, ACCOMPANY THE MILITARY TO POTENTIAL CRIME SCENES TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE EVIDENCE, AND HELP THE MILITARY COMPLY WITH ITS LEGAL

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OBLIGATIONS UNDER DECREE 2002, WHICH DECLARED ARAUCA A "SPECIAL REHABILITATION ZONE." AS A RESULT OF THIS COOPERATIVE EFFORT, ARRESTS IN ARAUCA FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES JUMPED TO OVER 100 IN 2002, FROM JUST THREE IN THE PREVIOUS FIFTEEN YEARS. IN ONE IMPORTANT RAID IN NOVEMBER, THE POLICE, ARMY AND PROSECUTOR GENERAL JOINED FORCES AND DETAINED APPROXIMATELY 100 INDIVIDUALS. OF THESE, 45 WERE FOUND TO HAVE EXISTING CHARGES AGAINST THEM RANGING FROM MURDER TO SEDITION. THESE 45 WERE TRANSFERRED TO BOGOTA. WHERE 37 WERE FINALLY PROCESSED FOR THESE CHARGES. INDIVIDUALS WERE ARRESTED IN ARAUCA THROUGHOUT 2002 FOR INVOLVEMENT IN BOMBING ATTEMPTS, AND OVER 40 ATTEMPTS TO BOMB THE PIPELINE WERE AVOIDED.

**OUTREACH PROGRAMS** 

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13. (U) POST IS PLANNING SEVERAL CIVIC OUTREACH PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO BENEFIT ARAUCA'S CIVILIAN POPULATION. SPONSORED BY USAID, DOD AND THE GOC, THESE SHOULD BEGIN OPERATION IN THE LAST HALF OF FY2003, AND WILL INCLUDE BUILDING HEALTH AND EDUCATION FACILITIES IN SARAVENA, ARAUQUITA AND THE TOWN OF ARAUCA, AS WELL AS PROVIDING MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE THROUGH MEDICAL READINESS TRAINING EXERCISES. OTHER USAID-FUNDED PROJECTS HAVE RELOCATED 3,000 DISPLACED PERSONS TO NEW COMMUNITIES AND ARE GIVING CREDIT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES TO 600 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD. OXY, USAID IS FUNDING CONSTRUCTION OF A LARGE COMMUNITY "PRODUCTIVE CENTER," DESIGNED TO INCUBATE AT LEAST SEVEN COOPERATIVE BUSINESSES AND GENERATE 169 JOBS IN ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATIONS, WITH AT LEAST 300 MORE JOBS TO BE CREATED IN EACH FUTURE YEAR. THE CENTER WILL INITIATE A LITERACY PROGRAM TO UPGRADE THE READING SKILLS OF ARAUCA'S POPULATION, AS WELL AS PROVIDE COMMUNITY-WIDE TRAINING IN COMPUTER AND INTERNET SKILLS. FURTHERMORE, POST IS COORDINATING DONATIONS OF SCHOOL AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT TO ARAUCA'S NEEDIEST HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS.

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	DHS-00	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00
	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00
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PUBLIC/PRIVATE ASSISTANCE EFFORTS

14. (SBU) AS STATED IN REFTEL, OXY, WHICH OPERATES THE CANO LIMON FIELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH STATE-OWNED OIL COMPANY ECOPETROL, HAS PROVIDED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN SOCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF ARAUCA THROUGH THE "EL ALCARAVAN" FOUNDATION, A NON-PROFIT NGO THAT PROVIDES TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. OXY AND ECOPETROL HAVE ALSO PROVIDED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS PER YEAR OF SUPPORT TO THE MILITARY IN THE FORM OF EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORT. POST AND OXY ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO COORDINATE THE ASSISTANCE THAT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE USG THROUGH THE INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY PROGRAM WITH THAT ALREADY PROVIDED BY OXY/ECOPETROL. THE GOAL IS TO CREATE A STREAMLINED EFFORT THAT WILL MEET THE

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NEEDS OF THE MISSION TO PROTECT THE PIPELINE'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND AVOID DUPLICATION OR CONFLICT. THE DCM AND VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE CHAIR AN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO ACHIEVE THIS COORDINATION.

15. (SBU) USAID IS ALSO WORKING WITH OXY/ECOPETROL TO IDENTIFY JOINT ASSISTANCE PROJECTS. THE GOAL IS TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AIMED AT INCREASING THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S PRESENCE IN ARAUCA IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR. OXY/ECOPETROL PROGRAMS HAVE ALREADY BUILT HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CLINICS THAT PROVIDE SERVICES TO A MAJORITY OF ARAUCA'S POPULATION. THESE NEW PROGRAMS WILL FOCUS ON TRAINING, EDUCATION AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAMS.

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